antiblious plans to revitalise Cardiff Docks, announced last week by the Welsh () ffice.

Speaking at the launch of the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, Welsh secretary Nichnlas Edwardes said a "design study" hy the Weish Arts Council would be commissioned immediately.

He also said the arts centre could be the new home of the Welsh Nutional Opera although this was not a "realistic propasiting in the next two or three years" because of the scale of esources needed.

An advisory group, set by up the Welsh Office, discussed the

Harris Li raised the £4 million

they were looking for this week

Trading in the 3.6 million

from their USM flotation.

A MAJOR new arts centre pussibility of a design competi-will be the centreplece of tion to secure a building of major importance".

The group — whose members included architect Gordon llowyer - also discussed the

By Amanda Ballileu

possibility of housing the opera in the courtyard of the National The idea was dropped in

favour of an earlier scheme by the museum's architects, the Alex Cordon Purtnership, to use the courtyard far a new visnal arts ecutre.

Tittal space in the new mnseum gallery for paintings and sculpture will dauble to 3,000sq US practice raises cash

9p nn the placing price of 112p.

As RD went tn press, the slinre

price was holding firm at 121p.

The placing values the firm st

apprnaeh with the air-conditioning and lighting scilities the nuseum has always lacked.

The scheme will also include an audio-visual thestre, s restaurant, shop and information

He also said more resources would he made available for the Welsh Natinnal Folk Museum at St Fagans, near Cardiff, and agreed to s major refurbishment of the New Thestre to provide better facilities

A third site for the npers hause at Bute West Dock, currently undergoing misjor redevelopment by Tsrmsc, has

tects Congress in Brighton.

**UIA** guest A report commissioned by the Welsh Office from international property consultants Jones Lang Wottonalsoempha-THE Archbishop of Cantersised the need for top quality bury's special envoy, Terry architects. Waite, has accepted an invita-"Top quality srchitectural tion to speak st next summer's International Union of Archi-

and design standards are impor-tant ingredients, possibly hrough the preparation of well Waite has worked as a codefined bricfs for individual ordinator on the Southern sites, but also through the Sudan relief project and is a member of the Council of the encouragement of the use of first-class architects and archi-International Year of Shelter for tectural competitions," said the

proximity to a gisnt steelworks. This cash injection for the arts

was announced nlong with plans

A Welsh Office spokesman

ssid the new corporation would

be very different from those

operating in London and Mer-

Edwardes said the "bold and

ambitious plan" is unique

because it has the full co-

operaton of the local authoritics

other pinces where the govern-

ment liss had to impose ar

organisstinn on unwilling local

authorities," he said.

"This is quite different from

to set up a urban development As oresult of axtensive market research, the Birmingham Visitor & Court corporation for Cardiff's dockureau has decided to increase the copocity of the new international Cu

Designed by the Percy Themas Partnership and Renton Howard Woodless It is due for completion to 1991. The contre is to have two further halfs was \$400 more people to use the facilities, increasing the tetal capacity to refer \$9,000.

The number of halls is being increased to a tetal ef cleven, with former http://www.buryen's grand-dailighter, suites, each capable of holding meetings of up to 40 people.

## **Hogers sets** Competition RICHARD Rogers is to be the THAMESDOWN planates by blanates by b

nain assessor for the lifth RIBA International Design Compctition for architecture students His theme, "New in the Old" will sak entrants to design a new public building for an existing urban space of their choice.

Details will be sent to schools hortly and submissions mus reach the RIBA by Friday, Mny

 The inaugural RIBA President's Medals, the student counterpart of the Royal Gold Medal, were announced this

## india, has vaiced her opposi-into Greycoat's propasals for

granted planning consent feation.

Tricentre 3 — the next pland. The Lutyens Trust has Allied Dunbsr's had complete tacked all the designs pro-Swindon, designed jointly had so far so inadequate.

YRM and Peter Carter. Now Candia Lutyens, in a Work on the new 6,000 a part to BD, questions the need highlighten will be seen a second part of BD.

with the completion due in the special to BD, questions the need to building will start next special more atrium buildings, and with the completion due in the special special to be added to Allied Dunbar already out the catalague of follies of pics two buildings by the jak leades gone by". architectural team—the conf. She criticised the "suggestion and the start of t

yard Life Centre and the transpose this 80s non-shaped Tricentre I blocker we into a fine example of a by. byes building in London.
These two buildings wars [Old-fashioned (Edwardian) FT Architecture at Work on Printerior af Lutyens House. be, but to destroy its flaor and interior for the sake of mercialisation can only be

> ain the latest gear. On behalf of my late grander, I object to Greycoat's

ned to re-dressing the Mona

## Nates in **Mant plan**

ATES Built Homes has ro pled plans for a massive mixed relopment at Ostericy Park the M4 in Hounslow, cover-

R 200ha. El would feature 40,000 sq mof tal units, parking for 7,000 its, 16ha of hi-tech and light Musiry and 40ha of housing admore that I 10ha of leisure

the scheme would also in a new matorway inter-

letes commissioned Lister htm & Assaciates to carryout a d use study but have not yet dup an architect for the final

#### **SAMERHERMERKERY** <sup>BC</sup> problem Season's M meeting greetings AMMERSMITH and Fulum council has called for

The Editor and staff of Building Design weuld like to wish all eur readers and odvertisers a Merry Christmas and best wishes for oprosperous New Yaar. gent discussions with the BBC consider the planning impliallons of building a new radio dquarters at White City. A ting is scheduled far next

January 5. He admitted this would be unlikely even if the dispute was settled swiftly. But he said he would be able to take up the post shortly after he

formally accepted Reports that the collection's move had been scrapped by RIBA policy committee could not be confirmed as BD went to

**Drawings Collection delay** 

THE proposed new

RIBA Drawings Collec-

tion curator has still not

signed a contract for the

job he was offered more

Although Cambridge-

based Thomas Cocke verb-

ally accepted the post, he fold

BD this week that he would

By John Wood

not formally accept until the

dispute over deputy curator

Her union, the Association of

Scientific Technical & Manager-

ial Staff has protested against

Cocke's appointment. It be-

lieves Lever, who has worked for

the RIBA since 1959 and as

deputy curator since 1970, is the

The union hopes the dispute

can be settled internally, but

depending on the outcome of a

meeting today (Friday) it will

consider industrial action in the

ASTMS has also been advised

that it could bring an action

against the institute under the

Cocke, who is an investi-

gator with the Historic Monu-

ments Commission, was due to

Sex Discrimination Act.

best qualified candidatc.

Jill Lever was resolved.

than a month ago.

The last curator, John Harris, resigned over plans to move the collection - and president-elec Rod Hackney has pledged to bring him back in a significant

role which could affeet Cocke. And opponents to the move are lobbying hard for their solution to the Helnz Gallery's space problems. Home House, at 20 Portman

The weekly newspaper for the design team

Square, and its neighbour 19, become available in 1989 when the Courtauld Institute moves to Somerset House. It has been suggested that the

Tenants accuse council

of safety 'cover-up'

gallery's space problems could be solved and a new institute of architectural history formed by combining the buildings.

#### Our next issue

BD is taking its annual Christmas break. The next issue will appear on January 9, 1987.

TENANTS living in high-ris

blocks of Reema system-built

flats in Lecds are accusing the

city council of a cover-up over

The Deane Tenants Associa-

tion alleges that vital informs-

tion found by consultant engin-

structural conditions.

## City gets generous over office permits

In an end-of-yeor plonning bonnoze, the City Corporotion pinning committee approved nearty 200,000sq m of offices this week. Terry Farrell won the unanimoun opproval for his scheme 6: replace Moor House on London Wall foliatogeth

scheme.
Designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill, the two buildings witl provide 38,250sq m and 31,500sq m. The rest of the Bishopsgate nito will provide a further 153,000sq m.
At the name meeting, Fitzroy Robinson's design for an 11,700sq m 12,storey of the phorne on the site of t2-storey office ncheme on the site of Bomords Irun, just west of Robert Manwell's Mirror Gromp building, was thrown out.

Arlingtoo Securities already bas an auditor because the store of the store of

(pictored).
The 27,000sq m 19-storey building has yet to get censent from the Court of Common Ceuncil, where his Alban Gate scheme for MEPC failed to win

Gate screene for MEPC Tailed to win permission of few weeks ago. The council is ta consider the latest development en Jonuary 8, but as the building dees not block views from the Barbican, and effers considerable planniog gain, support la likely.

Nevertheless, the next few weekn nre likely to be an onxlous time for Forrell and the owner of Moor House, Scottish Amicable Life Assurance.

Three levels of speciality shopping and restauroots of the building while new parts of the building while new pullways list news 1 and 1 44. wolkways liok across London Woll ond to St Alphoge Highwolk on the northern side of the 1960o street.

Three dealer floors of oround 2,760sq m ferm the bose of the building, over the retailing spoce. It oil 22,500sq m of offices will be

held by the council.

of a gas explosion.

Other permissions included the first two phoces of Resonaugh Stonhepe's proposals for the Blohops-gote frontage of the Brondgote

Robinsons have already said

ernment strength slandards

the blocks do not come up to

and that there is a possibility of

progressive collapse in the even

## Energy group's regulation worries

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19 1986

PROPOSALS to scrap requirements for energy saving in industrial and storage buildings have been slammed by the Association for the Conservation of Energy.

The proposals came in the second stage review of the Building Regulations being

Other suggestions aimed at saving more energy in honics and other buildings were welcomed by the association.

ACE director Andrew Warren called the industrial proposals "a very slarming step", especially in "Moncrgy year".

Warren said the DoEthought that businessmen commissioning such buildings would auto-matically specify buildings

which conscrved energy. This theory fell down when it came to speculative buildings, developed with no particular user in mind. The developer would not have to conform to any minimum energy require-

In addition to industrial and storage buildings the DoE's new regulations aim "to save in a cost-effective way about 20 per cent of the energy required for space heating in a typical house. and to improve energy in offices,

shops and other buildings". The first round of consultation will lost until March 31.

# the only concrete tile to combine all these

outline planning cansent fer o sebeme Meanwhile Town & City has beet

awarded planning permission for a 16,602sq m office block at the Old

Bolley, designed by Elnom Pack Roberts.

POROUS - surface water drains freely -- ideal for walking areas

NON-SLIP — safe in shopping precincts and walkways – Indoors or out, wet or dry.

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"Reviving our Old Towns" Imperial Hotel, Torquay 16/17 January 1987

AMERICAN architects Tribble Monday at a modest premium of

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shares on offer apened on around £14 milling.

Has conservation gone too far? Has a reaction set in?

Ia our planning process working agsinal the community? la our taxation system condemning good buildings to

How Important are history, character and local vernacular in altracting people to particular placea? How do we foce up to the oul-of-lown shopping revolution?

Can our lown centres (igh) back?

Many of our fineal provincial town centres were created by 19th century commercial development which is loo often deatroyed by its 20th cen hery equivalent. Others are simply being left to die. Is there a third way?

This conference investigates what makes towns lick, ond how much community involvement, good planning, good architecture and sensitive conservolion can contribute to prosperity.

Torquay, currently embroiled in n new planning row, sarves na an not example, but the purpose of the conference ranges far wider, from looking ni the potential for government incentive for inner city and lown centre regeneration to the role of trusts, developers, pansion funds and other sources of

We will be looking at other specific examples: Cnine, Cheaterfield, Edinburgh, Lancoster, Lecds, Shrewabury, Wimbledon, Wirksworth, Worcealer

Speakers will include: Tony Aldous; Tom Forde of English Heritage Charles Knevill new Director of 'huner City Aid' Gordon Michell; Geoffrey Mitcheil of Feilden & Mnwson Ken Powell of SAVE Teresn Sloden of the Victorian Society Acuathus members Andrew Arrol, George Ferguson, Derek Lotham and James Simpson and John McSherry The runu from the PRU

## Rot, Rape or Revival?

★ Whal towns or cities particularly concern you?

What are your reasons for concem?

★ Do you see a need for a national campaign specifically concerned with our old town centres?

Would you consider subscribing to such a

Please return within 10 days and enclose any other relevant information, illustrations cic.

Conlact name and address

Add accommodation imperial Hotel \* \* \* \*

Saturday night imperial, plus breakfast NB Prices are per person



Vicky Maxwell Acanthus Telephone: 01-995 1232 Telex: 8811418 as soon as possible

Conference Application Form

I/we wish to attend the Acanthus 1987 Conference at The Imperial Hotel, Torquay

Friday only (16th January) (including buffet lunch and refreshments) 630

Both days (including buffet lunch and refreshments) £55

rate Brittah Rail Tickets D

Amount enclosed

Please reinm to Voysey House, Chiswick London W4 4PN

Saturday only (17th January) (Including buffet lunch and refreshments)

Both days (Including buffet lunch and refreahments

Friday night imperial, plus breakfast

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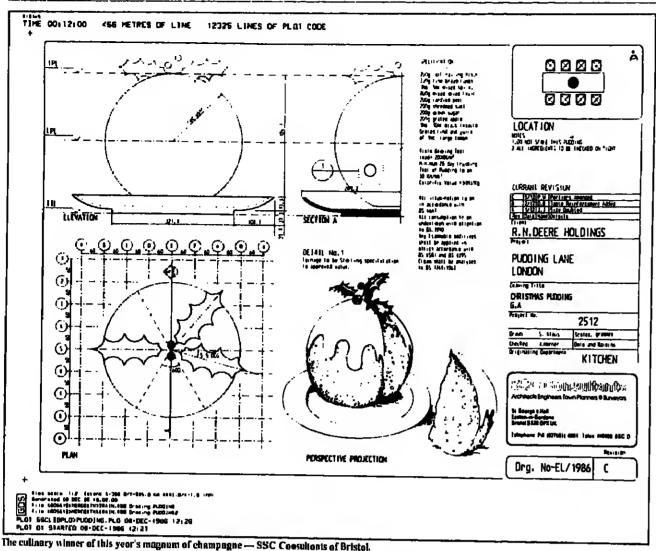
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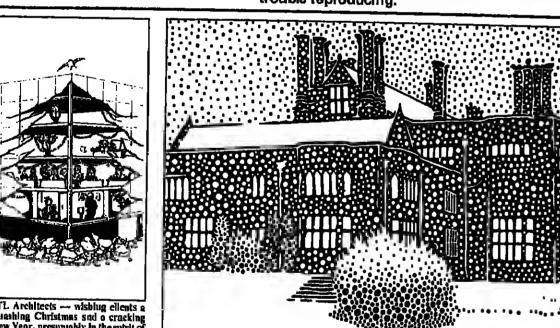
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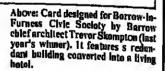
## Christmas cheer!

We review this year's erchitect-designed Christmes cards — the winner is above, honourable mentions below, and a mention to Yekeley Associetes for a clever idea which we would have trouble reproducing.

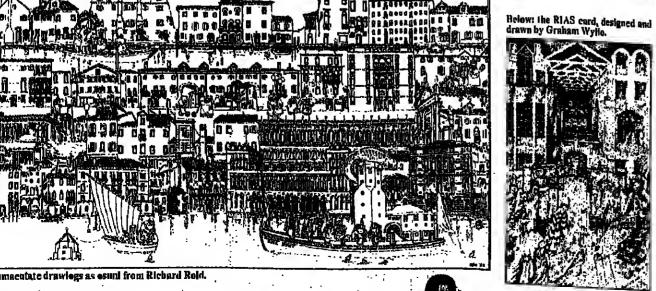


JTL Architects — wisbing clients a sainshing Christmas and o cracking New Yeor, presumably in the spirit of Ronan Point.

mmacutate drawlegs as esuni from Richard Rold.



TILITAKINI AND THE PARTY OF THE



Relow: the RIAS card, designed and drawn by Graham Wylle.

Alan Bienc picks some light reeding for Christmes end the New Year,

I like to read a range of writing

by an author in order

appreciate the ambience; for my

summer's journey down the

West Coast I was accompanie

by Newby's other travel books

- On the Shores of the Mediter-

ranean (Picador) and The Ble

For those who want a British

view of architectural life there is

Appleyard's account of Richard

Rogers' adventures to date, s

thoroughly enjoyable story and

one that rings true (Faber &

From time to time, I keep the

stocking fillers bought for

others and last January

delivered Arturo Barea's trilos

to Fred (a Mid-West architect

and PhD aged 50) - only to

reclaim it. Bs rea's classic covers

Spanish history in the first 40 years of this century and in-

cludes the best eyewitnes

account of the siege of Madrid

(1937-38). Fred had been to

Guerniea and the Basque coun-

try in 1984 without knowing

April 26, 1937, nor of Picasso

famous painting, nor of the

Afghanistsn, so my previous

Christmas gift to him wa

Newby's A Short Walk in the

Hindu Kush. Blanc, though

generous, is careful and b

subtle questioning discovere

that Fred didn't read much

came back to myshelves andwa

re-read with incressed deligh

The trilogy is autobiograph

Long plane flights are alway

Peter Fleming's Brazilian A

venture kept me happy in mis

recommend it to those reade

lucky enough to be flyingoff

the ski slopes for New Year.

should explain that Braz

seemed to me to be a promise

land in 1949 and the first sighted

Kodak coloured slides (Bui

Marx and Neymeyer) confirmed

my resolve to inimigrate oacean

start on background reading.

Fleming's spellbound adven-tures being the first to fire my imagination. (Peter was brother

Reality hit home in 1950 will

a failed thesis and the discover

ARIBA was obtained. I mad

That settled matters, Barea

He had spent a year or so i

Spanish Čivil Warl

anything of the bombing

Faber 1.

Red Train Ride (Penguin).

MY selection is based on that remote country is s linely Ihose books that have given illustrated textbook Traditional Architecture of Afghanista me the greatest pleasure in 1986. Some reflect my need compiled with Stanley Hallet A new edition is promised by Garland Publishing for neu for well-written English while working for eight months on the West Coast of year and will be available through The Triangle Book-shop, 36 Bedford Square, Lon-don WCI. the US earlier in the year.

Times past, there was a shared list with Walter Segal, and an overlap exists from those days with the works of Freya Stark; since Walter's reading pace ran to three volumes a week as compared with my staid consumption of a book per fort-night! I start therefore with Miss Stark, my particular favourites read last December and Janus ry being The Sauthern Gates of Arabia and A Winter in Arabia, both reprints published by Century Publishing Co.

There are companion diaries by the author that run from 1928 through to 1939 and World War ll, which describe the continuous thread of recent history in the Emerald Crescent and the growing trials and tribulations of Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Pslestine.

There is superb descriptive writing of places and townships. he most interesting architectural pieces relating to the Eurphrates valley and southern Arabia before war or oil wealth ruined the natural vernacular. It's worth providing this quote On Shibam Wadi Hadhramaut Yemen to whet the appetite:

"As we got nearer, its sides showed the same little beehive noles, the same vertical fissures, as the ancient cliff sides. But it wasn't cliff — it was Shibam, 500 houses all crowded together in a narrow space in the middle of the valley, with a lugegraveyard in a hollow beside it. We got nesr t into bumpy ground, with palms and ditehes; the long cliffs of the side valleys open away from it, and we ssw it through ace-top palms, the houses rising and called The Forge (pre-1914 Spain). The Track (Moroccoin the 20s) and The Clash (The Civil seven storeys or so, their narrowing white decorated tops giving them a look as if they lesnt back away from us; a little mosque is clustered in their my excuse for ear plugs and a solid spell of bookworming. shadows, squashed up among them, its minaret and cupola reaching shoulder high, another little white mosque in front like lace — it is all delicate work of air on the way to Moscow. trellis and wave in mud, white and made smooth and shiny.

and then pink with duat. "The houses have long straight shafts let into their sides for drainage, which makes them even taller and more like skyscrapers; we went round the aloping earthy space, a well and saqaya with rows of earthen waler jars beside lt; women ln trailing blue carrying skins of imagination. (Peter was brother water, and on a rise of about 6 to lan "James Bond" Fleming.) metres, up a cobbly way, the white gate of the town."

white gate of the town."

The other diaries are entitled Beyond Euphrates 1928-33. The Coast of Incense 1933-39 and Dust in the Lion's Paw 1939-46 (all published by Century).

War-torn Afghanistan is another country that is loaing its heritage. The atory of that past glory is well-told by Eric Newby in a reprint of A Short Walk Inthe Hindu Kush (Pleador). My time at Washington Stale University had an Afghan connection through Rafi Samizay, a Kabul refugee architect who left his homelaad six years and Musik. refugee architect who left his homelaad six years ago. His contribution to understanding eontribution to understanding shop.

# Curl up with a Architects lock antiers stocking filler in Stag Place contest

Farrell and Arup Associales are heading a list of eight architects compelling lo design a £30 million redevelopment of London's Stag Place for developer Land Securities. The other five invited con-

#### By Alan Thompson

Koralek, Richard Horden, Kenzie Lovell Partnership, William Whitfield and Skidmore Owings & Merrill.

Land Securities has launched two separate competitions ninning in tandem to find a "fresh and original" approach to the redevelopment of the 2ha site in

The first competition is for replacement buildings on the site of the soon-to-be-demolished Eland House (marked with an arrow in the photo-graph), occupied by the DoE.

The second competition is for s "creative design solution" to improve the large triangular, plazza in front of Eland House.

DY DAVIES are to work with

Philip Johnson and John Bur-

gee on the second phase of London Bridge City — the massive office development on

the south bank of the Thames.

DY Davies, one of the UK's

three architect practices quoted

on the Unlisted Securities

Market, are to implement John-son & Burgee's designs for the

The instruction is D Y Dav-

es' Isrgest and should boost the

firm's profits when work starts

on sile in the middle of next year.

Burgee & Johnson will em-

ploy Davies, although the

appointment was approved by the site's owner, the Kuwait-

A CONCRETE that will last 500

report in the Jopan Economic

he company has produced a

out harmful substances in the

almosphere, and claims it has a

THE Welsh Arts Council has

commissioned thealre Consult-

posedaris centre (News Decem-

Four sites are being considered. The favourite is in Card-iff's docklands.

NEW housebuilding, which

first nine months of this year

incy to times that of

Lasting

material

ordinary concrete.

Cardiff arts

Transatlantic team

for London Bridge City

Miehael Metcalfe, John Partridge, Sir John Boynton and Inn

Land Securities' last big architectural competition was the £30 million Grand Buildings scheme which attracted 287 entries but was branded a fiasco testants are Ahrends Burton & after the judges selected a scheme that was a replica of the facade of the existing building. Richard Horden's scheme for

Grand Buildings was shortlisted and singled out as "s strikingly originaly solution" but failed to make the final three. He is the only invitee for this scheme who entered for Grand Buildings.

William Whitfield, who has a respected track record in developments of this kind and is a keen conservationist of historic buildings, was chairman of the assessors in the Grand Buildings competition.

The Stag Place competition will be run in a single stage with up to three finalists being aubnitted to Land Securities for final selection.

The competition started this month and the winner will be announced in summer next year

owned St Martins Property

St Martins has outline plan

ning consent under s special

108,000sq m office scheme. This

will cost at least £120 million to

"We're delighted," said David Davies, chairman and founder of D Y Davies, He

expects to have several nrchi

tects based in Johnson &

Burgee's New York office to

advise on the effects of UK

construction regulations on

St Martins has yet to appoin

an interior designer for the

ARCHITECT Peter Ahreads

was robbed at knifepoint at his

**Architect** 

robbed

development order for

## Competition to plug urban design gap

URBAN design is the theme of the fifth RIBA international of the city", it says. student design competition, student design competition. First prize is £2,000, second thick last year attracted more £1,250 and third, £1,000. Closhan 1,000 entries making it the argest architectural competi-

"Demonstrate to Richard Rogers and his fellow jurors your skill as an urban designer''. says the brief for the competition, which is called "New in the

Entrants must design a building to fill a gap in an urban environment of their own choice - they can assume the removal of any buildings to create the

gap.
The brief also requires that buildings should "connect the ceremonies of the space to the ccremonies of your design" and suggests that "a successful programme will probably be for a public building".

'Your buildings will be judged, not as mere facade

ing date for entries is noon on May I 1987 at the RIBA head-

Other assessors include Courtenay Blackmore, Denis Serjeant and Graham Stirk. Blackmore directed the construction of Rogers' Lloyd's building, Serjeant is an architect and teacher and surveyor to the Roval Academy, while Stirk is an architect with the Richard Rogers Partnership.

## |Building logo

THE Faculty of Building is promoting a competition to design its new logo.

More details from Faculty of

Building, 12 High Street, Elstree, Goreliamwood, Herts



#### years has been developed by Takeaaka & Co according to a Camden home last week. Ahrends, a partner in Ah rends Burton & Koralek was Using two special ingredients. held at knifepoint for half an hour by three men who forced concrete so dense that it shuts their way into his house looking

for cash, jewelry and a safe.
The three eventually fled systems and a video recorder.

## **Cladding bill**

MORE than £2 million has been spent on repair work on the New ants Carr & Angier to prepare a design study for Cardiffa pro-Scotland Yard bullding in the last two years according to the Home Office.

The cladding replacement programme which started in 1985 has so far eost the Government £2,156,000.

## **Building output** | Defects hope

HOUSES listed under the Housincreased by 10.7 per cent io the iog Defects Act 1984 have over last year, has fuelled a 2.6 confidence with 29 of the 30 largest building accieties saying they would still lend on properties designated. received a massive vote of

Like Archimedes, you could submerge each in water end shout Eurex

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THE ALUMINIUM WINDOW ASSOCIATION by Bank House, by Bank Park, Entry Hill, Bath, Avon BA2 5NF. Tel: Combe Down (0225) 835811

Enter 2 ON EXPRESS ENQUIRY CARD

THE year kicked off depressingly with the new that Fundersfield Polytechnic might join NELP on the clusure list. It did. Neville Conder and ex-RIUA President Dwen Luder picked up CBEs and RIBA drawings curator John Harris received an MILE in the New Year's Innours list. Clive Niehnison Assuciates won the cumpetitiun to design a £6 minster Pler and the New Delhi Gandhi cumpetition was launched. National Health Service architects finally settled their 12year-old pay dispute und received up to £3,000 a year increase. The London Horough of Hackney decided it would take the lead role in setting up a central technical unit to continue the work of the Greuter Lundon Council's design staff. American Rubert Venturi was chosen to devign the extenstan for the National Gatlery.



Robert Venturi won the National Gollery compellion.

## February

A GREY month was considerably brightened up by intimate details of Richard Rogers' private life being revealed in his hiography. Readers were slummed to read about his sex life from the age of 13 and of his apparent inability to drow. Maguire & Murray won the competition to design a 100-room holi of residence for Oxford's Pembroke College, Design practice McColl took over architects Genffrey Reld Associates. Sir Frederick Glbberd & Partners stumped up £1.3 million for the leaking roof in Liverpool's Roman Calholle cathedral, Rod Hackney hinted that he might run for the presidency of the RIBA. Peter Ahrends was appointed professor of architecture at tha Bortleit School and Robert Matthow, Johnson-Marshall took nvor the Chorry Gnrden Pier



development from Richard Held [ and Ralph Lerner.

SPRING was hernfeld in hi

## March

extreme activity on the architecture from. Terry Farrell unsciled development plans for Charing Cruss station, lan Ritchle reveoled plans for what could be the tallest office development in Landan, Sidell Gibson' winning entry for the Graod Buildings compelltion (with replica facade) was announced and Terry Farrell (again) applied for planning permission to build on tup of the Saroy, NELP and Huddersfield polys announced they would challenge Government closure pluns. The GLC was abnilshed. Arata Isozaki received the Ruyni Gold Medal. Fitzroy Robinson were called in to assist in the controversial £60 million Battersea Power Station dere-

April AFTER the disastrous fire at Hampton Court the Government was urged to toke a tougher line with property under its control.

AD publishes its first Top 100 — n

listing of practices in order of size. IIDP came off the clear winners. Norman Foster's £500nılllina-plus Hongkong & Shanglial Bunk headquarters begot trading, while in England Farrell's Henley Regatta headquarters was officially opened by the Queen. D Y Drives hecame first prucilce to go public, while BD were the first to re real plans for a major development at Spitnifields. The Limchouse Petition opposing the £70 million Selfert scheme for Limehouse Bostn was officially launched, supported by David Owen, Colin Amery, Rod Hackney and others, German architects Gottfried Böhm won the 1986 Pritzker

### May THE DoE tried to block funding

for the Coin Street Development on London's South Bank but inter changeil lis mind. Peter Palumb renewed his bid to develop a site at Manslon House with James Stirling an architect. Lutyen'a greot-nophew Nicholas Ridley replaced Kenneth Baker as environment secretary. Tho RIBA come under attack over delays in its nuclear study. Ian Ritchie's scheme for the world's tallest tower was shelved when Tower Hunilets sivilehod to SDP/Allinnee control, while plons for the world's biggest shopping ond leisure complex in the Black Country were invelled by architect dovoloper igor

THE buttle bogun over the Channel Tunnol's effect on central Loudon led by Lamboth Wostminater sald "'yes" to Micbael Manser's plans to convert St John's Lodge In Regents Park "Probably the world's largesi dosign group'' was ied, when designers Stewart McColl Association and architects Covell Motthews Joined hands.

the stairbeaters

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fined to wheelchnirs. Find out more by ringing (0264) 643t t or te – no stamp needed – to: Dept 6389Stannah Steirtifta National

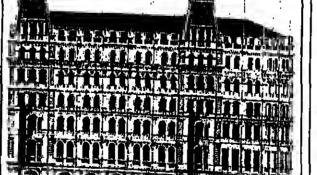
architeets in private practice ( Rosehaugh Stanhope brought in Leon Krier to desigo its Spitaieojoyed a summer boom. Prince Charles presented the first The Times/RtBA community enterfields scheme. Three groups prise awards, which promised to ubmitted detailed nians to Tower become an annual event. Ameri-Hamlets council in competition can Sam Wanamaker won his 15for Whitechanel retail and housyeor fight to build a reproduction ing scheme. Regallan was named f Shakespeore's Globe Theatre on the south bank of the Thomes when Southwark council pulled out of a court case. BD revealed that former environment secretary Patrick Jenkin was not involved in the decision to allow Scifert's development at Lime-

ANNOUNCEMENT of the "liuliding Communities" conference — Rod Hackney, Lord Scarmon and Prince Charles would be the star tums. Arata Isozaki was presented with RIBA Gold Medal. A competition was lounched for exhibition gallery design at RIBA headquarters. South African onli-apartheld architect Hans Schirmacher fled to Britoin after the institute of South African Architects' headquarters was rulded by security police ond files removed. The RIBA president refused to allow him to address council but he spoke to SAG and overseas comunittee and called for ISAA's excision from UIA congress in Brighton, Jonathan Glancey resigned as editor of The Architect and was replaced by David Pearce, RIBA City Wise conference was a damp squib lirened up by speokers Ken Livingstone, Alfia Wood and Denise Scott-Brown. The Hull Cudat (Community Urban Developmen! Assistance Team) was rejected by locals. Raymond Andrews was RIBA Council's nomination for next year's presidency. LET brought in MacCormac Jamleson & Pritchard to upgrado its Spitalfields design.

## August

CITY of London chief nrehitect ond planner Sluari Murphy asked to redost retired (pushed by his conser-

the stily season was Architectural | plons to be the second Brillsh Review's report of postmodernism's death and replacement by "The New Spirit". This
"new spiril" wouldn't impress
clients, predicted Piers Gough.
Brilish Wolerways revealed that Scifert & Partners had been asked to redosign the Limchouse



mem xmag

01.040.6127

Andrew Derbyshiro becamo tho Groud Baildings then and now: Sidell Gibson won the competition in March to 27th orchitectural knight, while the dismay of 286 other entronis.

### September SCIENTIFIC dismantling of

revealed that Jim Stirling L Innded one of the building by

Canary Wharf scheme is

Jeremy Mackay-Lenking

home £1.5 millionricher uten flototion of his firm on hely

There was one week when !

monaged to avoid printings:

Andrews but this was jour

phoney war. The following in

the tone of Andrews came,

grew shriller and be of

Finckney n "fool" And a

nounced his resignation. Re

Johnson, doyen of US archie

emerged as the architects phase two of London Bridgets

November

LEON Kricr reveoled his to

classicol master plan for Spir

Belda to the sort of acciding

must have turned the release

Beekwith brothers and the

architects, Richard MacCome

and Fitzroy Robinson, great November, BD scooped on

body with the first plants

Kohn Pederaen Fox's designs

Canary Whnrf Tower, We with

also first to mention Priva

Chorles' new Inner City Tree

hensive guide to community

nrehitecture and a review of the

movement. Andrews' election

campaign grew hysterical is

Curdiff where he and Hacha

oret for the first time in pulic

debate. Bonging his fist on the

toble, Andrews called Hadas

"a charlatan". The two coales

ers clashed once more at Portla

Place while further resignation

- Dnvld Pearce, editor of The

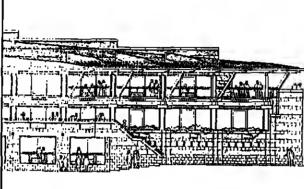
Architect and Hllary King, wes

officer - revealed the unrest

St Rod, the drenm comes irve.

RIBA hendquarters.

Ronan Point uncovered serious iefects in its construction *BD* exclusively revealed. John Harris esigned as curator of RIBA Drawings Collection, ostensibly wer remarks by the president, but really over plans to move it to RIBA headquarters. Selfert was announced as designer of o scheme for Spitalfields for Beazer Property. RIBA scrapped plans for Hull Cudat but said it might be back if invited. It is never heard of again. Greenwich counos the major sponsor of "Building cill opposed Canary Wharf.
Communities". Doftest story of Whinney McKay-Lewis unveiled



Milion Keynes practice Denion, Tuntey, Scott won the Asion Universit competition, above. Maguire and Murray won the Pembroke College, Oxford competition and one for o visitors centre at Chepstow. Casile, below.



## **October**

ities Morket. Conservative coun-

elllor Douglas Denny was expel-

led from purty in Portsmouth

after accusing council of mal-

administration over proposed

refurbishment of Portsdown Purk

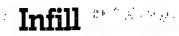
UNOFFICIAL contender Rod lackney stepped into the presidential election ring and "Foster Rogers Stirling" opened of the Royal Academy, Both events ensured the architectural profession hogged the limelight for the rest of the year. Flok began to fly Hackney firing a lethal salvo at David Atwell, while official caodidate Raymond Andrews thened his clection platform by teaming up with David Rock. He promised to bring bock John Harria os consultont to the Drawings Collection, and president Lorry Rolland attacked Rod for attacking RIBA staff. BD City.

by Barratt. Brighton'a Grand Hotel, bombed by the IRA in December 1984, reopened after n £1 million refurbishment. THE "Building Community conference made sure that and tecture continued to be a major topic for the media. Rod Hackney's chairmanship of the coule rence, as the patron saint revealed the nort of influence hi could wield as RIBA president The conference was a success,

was "bottom up" all the way mil Prince Charles calling lor a return to Classicism and Brin Barnes castigating the conference sponsor Regalian. Ten minster for his much vanish questioned whether Rod could do | Charing Cross station schene two jobs at once. Hackney some consolation for having best Corporation's court of commen council over his Alban Gate

vationists and developers classed over the Lutyens building in the

If you would like further information concerning the products on these pages, please fill in and leturn the pre-paid reader enquiry card





Well, well, my very lost column there were times when I thought I'd not reach it. Over one thousand letters from the Highest in the Lond down to that dreadful TINA womon - ot least the signotures should fetch somehing. To fit of erv more in, I'm hist including my onswers this time with a couple of exceptions.

NOW it's patently clear I'm there, what is the most efficacious role for me to take? R H. Macclesfield.

Rather like melting down lead scrap for toy soldlers — keep up the heot and let the scum rise to the top. Then chable others to

Two points - don't believe the values put on No 66, and don't Imagine that the likes of Davids Allford, Price and Pleydell-Bouverle would ever dream of lunching in Portland Place.

lmer city decay requires social denlists oot lock-jaw mokers. Every city in Britain of over 250,000 had lost population by 1980 with the exception of Plymouth. Where on earl b do you think the people bave gone, Sir?

So the Government is removing the spherical reactor at Windscale aod destroying the glant balls al Fylingdales — both fine images in otherwiae boriog landscapes. Rum behavlour in an orn when second-rata rallway slations and cinemas are almost snerosanet.

Why not sito Sizewell at

With the present Government threateoing the Ordnance Survey and the Lobour Opposition threateoing to outlaw hunting, the day-to-day surveillance of lands normally guarded against outsiders will become increaslogly thin. On-the-spot weather orecasting has good and aid to the footpath peopla is pitiful. Great tracts of Britain may acon become secret "lost" laod someone abould be told.

No, I doo't like tha New Underground Stations facelifts — the make-up is too thick, narrowing platforms, passage woya and tialrs. Also the flattening of the arches nol only redoces the height out makes me feel more awore of the weight obove. However, the appearance of tha coloured route gns - Eustoo-Brown etc. Cockfosters" looks strange to

The red rose symbol looks soft to me and is hard to reproduce,

reduce or stencil-what the hell's wrong with the Red Flag?

scrap North Sea platforms" -Independent, November 13.

Favourite nds:

have vortical balusters."

Enough (Seasonally adjustant) is enough I am not the only one to pear that how is the time for a columnist who writes his/ of hor own eduna Action not words

not without in fluenco N.D.W

— Ed.



# Closing Improving prospects

foreigners - hava you noticed how many now ask directions on the Tube?

"Government to force firms to

Pity — they're some of the Bneat dings we've produced in the laat decade. No doubt their owners are not prepared to look aBer them. Perhops a cause for a Jenkins please note). Thicking o those clever oll men, why can' they lay an underwoter pipeline from Poole Harbour (Whyche Farm), to Southampton Water (Fawley Refinery), rather than cut a vast swnrd through the New Forest? No doubt the compen sation to the three or four landowners involved is generous.

"Computer versus buildings December 86, a major International conference on how to alleviote the stress placed on existing buildings by computer and communications focilities and how to make new buildings

How about "future aspiro-tions-proof buildings"? Timber Bridges, 1986: "Bridges for use in rural areas can hove horizontal rails while those in urban areas or lown centres car

Dear Editor.

is called for I am

great Russell St.

## Cedric Price

We hope to persuode Norman Willis to begin a column shortly



THE year has ended with a bang not a whimper. We have had an unprecedented burst of media publicity surrounding the election of Rod Hackney as RIBA president, with fresh debale on the future of the Drawings Collection, the Financial Times, alone of all the newspaper groups to venture into Docklands so far, has chosen an architect to produce a real building rather Iban a cross between a cowshed and a bunker; Land Securities has announced another competition, albeit a limited one, to replace a dull and parochial 1960s block in Victoria with something better (no replicas please!); the ambilious scheme for Charing Cross stallon has been given the go-ahead; the "Fosler, Rogers, Stirling" exhibition has continued to pull them in (last day is Sunday, December 21); the "Building Communities" conference brought architecture gene-

rally into new public focus; genuine ur ban debale is underway at Spitaifields. This coincidence of events is no

symbol of what is supposed to be a profession on the decline, saddled with doubts, worries and liabilities, but on the contrary a symplom of vigorous health, an eyefor opportunities and a willingness to explore new ways of working. Fresh challenges are about to emerge in the shape of revised Building Regulations, though challenges of the wrong sort the sort which have affileted architects since the war. If there is a depressing side to the current state of the profession, it is the extent to which achieving a building at all is a major task, and achleving the building you really wanted nigh-on Impossible. If one story during 1986 is an example of this syndrome, it is Stirling's designs for Peter Palumbo in the City of London, sill not decided. And the

The Editor's Comment

apparent difficulties of getting results in the Clty were emphasised by the farce over the proposals to replace one of the duilard buildings of London Wall.

Overail, however, the outlook for the profession is not bad - mainly because the public is increasingly coming to sce the role of the architects as designers, enabicr and catalyst, whether he or she is working with a local community, with a retailing chain or a speculative developer. We are moving awny from the years when the main requirement of the architect was to be able to fudge a way through regulations, and never mind what the bullding looked like,

**Architectural&Construction** MeDonald. A practical guide, encompassing both functional and aesthetic considerations, to fireplace

2. Ouliding Regulations Explained and illustrated [Seventh edition] by Powell-Smith and Billington. Covers the new 1985 Regulations for all building types for England and Wates, with extensive Illustrations and references to regula-tions and Approved Documents, Price £14.50 (paperback).

al quotations. Foreword by Sir Hugh Casson. Cartoons by Louis Hellman. Edited by Charles Knevitt. Price 18.95 tine, p&pi.

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4. The Classical Orders of Architecture y Robert Chithant. Immaculate line rawings and informative captions ning the origins, develo and practical usage of all the classical architectural elements, Invaluable to designers and fascinating for their clients, Price £16.45.

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changes in the law on professional liability, recentlon monles and interest

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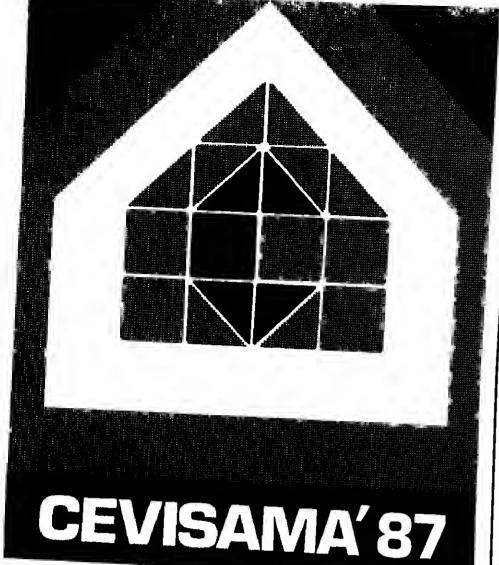
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## Final thoughts on the Academy

As the "Fosters, Rogers, Stirling" exhibition draws to a close on December 21, BD publishes the last reviews.

## Christopher Knight

WHICH is the more star-struck
the Royal Academy or its
three superstars themselves. dazzled by their own brilliance in an otherwise apparently

The public is led to believe in them as supermen able to onceive the design and direct the execution of giant projects single-lianded. But a good building, as Corbusier said, is many men thick. Here we see nobody elsc. Yet in the 1980s the indivi-

dual designer has less control, and the ereation of a building of architectural quality is more han ever a collective process. Post-Modern tackiness is a eeble reaction to this.

In this show the public is given no explanation of the design process in general or of the particular works displayed, ordained and constrained as they were by elients, eash, and politics. The three built projects at least demonstrate that compromise is not inevitable, or can it least be well-concealed. The hree unbuilt schemes lell another story if you stop to think.

The exhibition is subliminal propaganda for an anachronistie concept of the architect as artist, yet it does nothing to explain the architectural thought which erystallises the elient's brief. The public can easily understand and worldly constraints while remaining blind to the architecture. Christopher Knight is an orchitect

**Tony Forward** 

THREE cheers for the Royal Academy — and for the exhibition aponsors — for putting on a major architectural exhibition which is attracting the general public and not just professionals

Foster's show is brilliantly attractive - not only the Immaculate models that one expects, but beautiful images of he Hongkong & Shanghal Benk clianging rhythmically on an array of five lerge screens, accompanied by evocative Chinese music. No wonder the scats opposite the sereens are filled by contented clientele, their senses soothed by seductive sound and vision. But Foster's second room is the more intere-

sting. Here, again with the aid of superb models, we are reminded of a sad selback which occurred out of building the new broadcasting centre.

Loat opportunity is also npparent in Rogers' room, in the speciacular model of "London as it could be"; his bold idea of a pedestrian route from PiccadIlly Circus to Waterloo shows what conviction could achieve - but given the prevailing commercial context what hope is there of mplementation?

As for Stirling, the massive mock-up of the Staatsgalcric is a good appetizer for anyone who hasn't been io Stutigart. But the design for the National Gallery extension makes one hungry for a building which, alas, we shall not see. Perverse some of the scale with its function and the scale with its function and the attempt at justification, "It's attempt at justification," to last for only 50 details may be — the heavy column, for example, slap in avowed humanistic aims of the designed to last for only 50 front of the entrance doors yet Stirling's scheme shows a only way to appreciate the Chatham.



## question of hygiene

In response to your invitation for readers to review the Royal Academy exhibition, the following cartoon triclogy is on the theme of personal hygiene, Jomes Utting. Jomes Utting proctices os on architect in London.



subtlety, wit and imagination which Venturi will surely find hard io rival. Tony Forward in the head of the school of orehitecture of Huddersfield Polytechnic.

### Kenneth Lynn

THIS is the exhibition through which the public's currently aundiced view of architecture is to be transformed into something more appreciative. By all accounts the public is

giving it every chance, thronging the three galleries in the hopeful length on which to tune into this widely-debated and muchmaligned commodity, and to reassess its relevance to their lives. If only the exhibition could meel them half-way . Three stara shine in the

octagonal ante-room. Rogers', Stirling's and Foster's potted biographies shed little light on the remote worlds of their in Rogers' room, remoteoess is the key, with its ant-like

river-terraces of a London-as-it-A mature woman, pondering could-be with the South Bank divested of Hungerford Bridge the rotating model of Lloyd's

Stirling assures us that the Kenneth Lynn is on orchitect in

# Scorpio

## An arachnid guide to 1986

## Quotes of the year

"I wanted to be an opera singer." - James Stirling at

"Designing buildings can be so stressful." — Robert Venturi

"I believe there is still a future for stone — for if I can dress stone why can't others?" Nicholas Ridley at the RIBA "We are satisfied that our approach to the project will provide an appropriate building." The BBC on the designs for its new

"I think it is time to resurrect the principles by which classical Grecce operated." - Prince Charles at the "Building Communities" conference.

...the Rambo architecture of Europe's tallest building," Ian Latham on Canary Wharf Tower.

"It's a clear case of money versus architecture." - Stuart Lipton on rival designs for Spitalfields.

## **Fashions**

Dealing floors Going public Inner cities UDCs

The green belt Fund-raising Community groups Foster's office furniture New spirit Surrey Docks

## Disasters

Hull Cudat The Architect Portsdown estate Grand Buildings The M25 The Roundhouse Leicester Square The BBC

## People

Nicholas Ridley Leon Krier Paul Getty II Brian Barnes James Stirling

ing wall should be twice as high it is, and the monumentality of the eladding is dwarfed by the size of the coloured-pipe "hand" rails whose 12-inch diameter not even Big Jim could comfor tably grasp. The architectural thousanda of visitors who pas daily through its repetoire of architectural in-jokes.

Staatspalerie is to visit the school

building. The giant backlit

photographs are almost suffi-eiently alive with colour and

movement to give the impression of being there, but the illusion is fatally compromised.

confusing. Surely that undulat

AFTER 1997

Finally Foster, whose hi-tech expertise fails to Illuminate his texts. A multi-screen slide-show recreates the bustling atmosphere of Hong Kong, and semioriental muzak accompaniesthe majestie riae of the mega-structure. The huge model is perched perversely high, con-verting the customary bird's-sys view into a frustrating worm's

population erowding the wide eye view.

Walkways Labour authorities Cocktail bars Covent Garden The PSA Conservationists Grants

ISAA The Barcelona Chair Post-modernism The Isle of Dogs

## **Triumphs**

Community architecture
Building Design Divis demolition Aston University The M25
The Alhambra Charing Cross

Coin Street builders Rod Hackney

Kenneth Baker Richard MacCormac Richard Rogers Frederick Koch Prince Charles Raymond Andrews Powell and Moya Alice Coleman Terence Conran

Editor's note: These lists are, of course, entirely reversible.

## Messages

### Farewell

GLC architects Stuart Murphy Ronan Point NELP Huddersfield David Pearce Jonathan Glancey Hilary King Elemeta (briefly) John Harris (maybe)

#### Hello The Lloyd's building

Hongkong Bank The London Residuary Body Acanthus Inner City Aid Thomas Cooke Clore Gallery USM quotes London Advisory Committee Philip Johnson

## **Quotes I wish I'd heard**

"it's a nice low-rise scheme." G Ware Travelstead. Modernism . . . I like it!" - Prince Charles. Everything's under control." - PSA. This design is faultless." — Sherban Cantacuzino. You'll see something well before Christman" — Bob Venturi.

"No, president." - Patrick Harrison.



## Two heaters in one!..



## ... the Dimplex combined storage and convector heater! The economy of night storage ... and the flexibility of daytime top-up

Areas healed with even the most efficient slorage healers sometimes need a 'top-up lrom a direct heal source. That means an extra healer laking up extra space. Now there's en answer...

The new CXT healer from Dimplex combines a storage heater and a convector healer (ogether, Arid all, in e until that's less than? X2 inches deep.

The storage heater section of the CXT provides his built of the required heat, using cheap oil-peak electricity. Then, the thermostalically controlled convector And matching separates the styling of the OCT matches the Art and ATE storage heaters and DYS panel convector interest. They combine to present a complete constitution of the Art and DYS panel convector interest. They combine to present a complete constitution of the Art and the A

heater 'tops up' when necessary, to maintain the chosen comfort level, economically. The convector can also be used indeponitently. Like the renowned Dimplex XT storage heaters, the CXT can be upgraded to automatic input control by adding the 'E pack' electronic 'brain'. There's three models of CXT, with storage loadings up to 3.4kW and convector outputs up to 2.25kW. The new CXT from Dimplex gives you maximum economy, and maximum fexibility. It's a tempting combination of two heaters in one—and it's yours for the 'esting'!



tirm AECi declared "an electric

motor should look like a

birthday present"! Primitivism

is a theme long explored by both

art and architectural historians.

But whereas attists such as Paul

Klee and Lionel Feininger made

explicit their debis to children's

art and experience, and an artist-

designer such as the Dadaist

meant "rocking-horse", and

Paul Gauguin spoke of going back beyond European and

Greek art "to the Dada of my

nursery") Kirt Schwitters could

niake his great Merzbait into a

kind of megastructure of gothic

grottoes, harking back to the toy

industries of the Black Forest

and Nuremberg, there have been

few open admissions from

architects of inspiration from

The expressionists were an

exception, but few of their ideas,

such as Bruno Taut's present-

ation in Frühlicht magazine of

allotment huts as proletarian

childhood imagination.

tand remember that "Dada"

#### "I THINK that childrengen-PLAYING WITH erally do exert influence ou their toys, that their choice is directed by inclinations and desires, which, however, vague and unformulated, are nevertheless, very real, Still, 1 would not deny the contrary, PHILOSOPHY that is to say, that toys act upon the child, particularly upon one with literary or artistic inclinations. One would hardly be surprised to see a child of that sort, whose parents take him to the theatre, already coming to

Christmas is synonymous with toys. Brian Hatton, in festive spirit, muses on their srchitectural implications.

in its most entrancing form." Those words were written by Charles Baudelaire in his essay of 1859, "La moraleda joujoux" (The ethic of the toyl. They remind me of remarks attributed to Churchill on the rehuilding of the House of Commons: " influence the shape of the buildings around us, and they in turn influence us".

crinsider the theatre as beauty

It is not mistaken then to see toys as the imaginative architeeture of childhood and to lonk among them for signs of the obsessions and dilemnas of the ndult environnieut.

Although Baudelaire went on in his essay to discuss those "philosophical toys" using scientific optical devices that prefigured the kinematograph. his reference to the theatreasthe epitome of art then was germane. for there was perhaps no "ambitious" toy of the 19th century so popular among well-to-do families as the juvenile dramm, performed in darkened sitting-rooms within enrilboard proscenia and printed eut-out

Such miniature theatre was a toy within a toy, for it placed within the game of architecture the game of play-acting, and the cry that all the world's a stage referred in this case to all the toy world. For the striking thing every aspect of the adult world. alikes and Star Wars elones.

imitation is literal, stereotypical, purticipation.

This was the eritleism made of modern toys by Roland Barthes n the essny he included on them n hia anthology Mythologies. For Burthes the curae of toys today is that they always mean something, their Inbuilt meanings forcelosing on the child's agination, defining identities in advance and determining the social anticipations of the user:
"Faced with this world of fnithful and complicated objects, the child can only dentify himself as owner, as

nat invent the world, he uses it; there are, prepared for him, actions without adventure, without wonder, without joy". admitted their influence. There Barthes wants toys to liberate is no doubt of the "philosophie" children from readymade social value of their abstract architectmeanings by means of freely unics to Wright; moreover, adaptive and inventive hriabstract blocks of a comparable collage, subject to no sovkind were developed as toys hy some of the contemporary ereignty but an autonomous intugination bent on discovery:

The merest set of blocks.

provided it is not too refined.

implies a very different learning

of the world: then, the child does

not in any waycreate meaningful

objects, it matters little to him

whether they have an adult

name; the actions he performs

are not those of a user but a

demiurge. He creates forms

However, in one respect,

Barthes' remarks seem limited

in a way chnracteristic of wher

he wrote them (the mid 50s), I

wonder if he would still hold

It is an aspect with bennings

them today in an eru of "post-

not only on toys and toy

architecture, but on the real

thing. It is to do with the

abstraction implieit in his

preference for aimple blocks.

For it is not necessary, in order

to escape the confinements of

social stereotyping, to resort to

what Barthes termed the "zero-

degree" of signification, that is.

The imagination can aubvert,

divert, pervert, invert, and

revert the sign; it can take one

thing intended for n purpose and

use it as or for something else.

structuralism".

creates life, not property."

which

walk, which roll, he

Yet a reuding of the childhood misguidedly termed "postobsessions of a surrealist auch as modern" Max Ernst would reveal a very different relation to toys and their meanings from that of last year's Nato exhibition Wright; one much closer, I "Gamma City" and a toy grotto

math. Frank Lloyd Wright, as is well known, was given Froebel toy blocks as a child and later theatre which influenced the think adapted by commercial stores from central theatre which influenced the think adapted by commercial stores from the kind adapted by commer mercial stores from central European Baroque culture and imagination of 19th century given an oneiric shoek in the symbolists such as Baudelaire. Surrealist group shows of the and which appear again in the 30s and 40s designed by Marcel "boxes" of Joseph Cornell -an Duehamp. imagination much closer to There was another sense in which the Gamma show bore a architectural manifestations strong resemblance to toys such

as complex dolls' houses and toy theatres, in that it made As an example I mention the movables and furnishings, not unmistakable similan ty between walla, the eatalysts and promoters or architectural space. A glance at the magnificent

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A time far giving and reinforcing m



collection of houses and theatres in the Bethnal Green museum will indicate that, for the child playing with these toys, the Whole interest and motivation in them springs from the fictions, ceremonies and narratives conjured among the equipment and miniature utensils of the interior. Spatial division of the dolls' houses at Bethnal Greenis

and exquisitely built. The priority of the interior narrative in toy architecture was something that was rather overlooked in a notable competition for architects dolls' houses run by Architectural Design a couple of years ago and published as AD No 53.

quite rudimentary, even when

the exterior is grandly designed

One of the few entrants to identify the priority in dolls' houses was Francis de Vallee, who wrote: "It quiekly became evident to me that it is the contents of the dolls' house that forms the basis of the child's games and the stories he acts out with his dolls. It was therefore obvious that the whole process of architectural crention had to be reversed, in that the first sten was to choose the objects that would create the living environnient and only then could I uesign a structure to house them

De Vallee was also one of the few entrants to explore the possibility that toys do not need to he representational or in scale; thut a spap holder can be a TV set, a spring a stairease, a cheese grater a fireplace.

This adaptation, to me, is the essence of toymaking as it is of art. One of the few others to do this was Jean Nouvel, who made a folding tool-box into a portable doll's house. On the other hand, the sense of private narrative can be elaborated to the point of ritual, as it was in an exquisite Japanese entry, which looked like a shrine or tabernacle. If this recalled any kind of toy house, it was like a cinerary urn in the form of a primordial dwelling of the kind discussed by Joseph Rykwert in On Adam's

the lines of the blocks designed

wardrobe.

House In Paradise. The problem with the AD competition, reflecting perhaps its historical moment, was preciousness. There is still room for exploration in this area, and I would suggest a competition set today ought to stipulate a brief for an inner city dolls' house, using recycled materials and with a collective function, for

Wendy Houses, got very far. My point is not that are hiteeta aren't influenced by ehildhood ideas, but that they don't readily admit it. It is arguable, for instance, that the most childlike arehitectural movement at present is the hi-tech work of instance a whole doll's tower architects such as Richard block with many flats --- say one for each child in a nursery Rogers. Is it really much more than a fascination with Mee cano school. It would be interesting to know if the Soviets, at the height and bits that "work"? of the Constructivist passion for collective dwellings, ever

If one goes to a toyshop one sees in caricature and miniature explored the possibility of a the whole dilemma of contem-"new type of dolls' house" along porary architectural culture. Representation of the built by Ginsburg and others. Or is the doll's house incorrigibly environment in toydom falls into two incompatible catebound to bourgeoia individ-ualism? The winner of the AD gories. On the one hand there is the deathless iconography of competition, a gilded tower by late Victorian England: land of Mike Gold, not only eelebrated steam railwaya, parish churches, individualism, but the ego itself, and timber halls. On the other for it was not a doll's house at all. hand there is the eacophony of but a Wendy House the size of a pseudo-technology: gizmos, space invaders, programmable Although the AD competition robots, and computer graphies was ostensibly triggered by the publisher's fruitless search for a whose only leonography or human reference is to a sort of good doll's house for his invenile Mad Max. If anybody daughter, it turned out to be an doesn't believe that there is a opportune moment. For it has deep crisis in the culture, take a to be said that much posttrip to a toyshop.

modem domestie architecture, from Venturi through Jeremy Dixon to the Jeneks residence, has about it an unmistakably nursery or toy-town flavour. It is no if, in reacting against Miesian abstraction, theac architects felt that they had to resort to virtually infantile carleature and oversealing of representational features to quality that seems endemie to

This is by no means the first time infantilism has appeared in readymade systems. architecture. Anyone trying to inderstand the domestic and Garden City movements in Edwardian arehitecture ought to begin with a good read of Kenneth Graham's Wind to the Willows. Ratty, Badger, and Toad would have made ideal clients for Voysey, Baillie-Scott,

and Lutyens respectively. But the idea that serious design could look like a toy as well as a toy might look like design was not absent also from the Modern Movement. One of directors of Peter Behrens

make their point.

There are some toys that have tried to resolve the cultural sehizophrenia and the Lego firm makes one of them. It recently organised an exhibition of structures built by invited architects under a title from Le Corbusier, "Architecture ia a Magnificent Game". The results were astonishingly varied and inventive. Yet I have to say that none escaped a certain stilted

In the end the complaint of Barthes, that too many manufactured toys tend towards stereotypification, holds. It is as gettiog beyond readymade and prefabricated - modules whether they are structural components, as in hi-tech, or packaged signifiers and aemiotic components, as in post-modern.

If toys are ceasing to reler to real life, architecture is approaching the condition of a toy, and a not very philosophical



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about the toy-world as we find it in such toy niuseums as Pollock's in Seala Street (which grew originally out of a factory for toy theatres) and the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood is the degree to which it replicates If this universality is not reflected in most toyshops, it is a In the words of the American measure of the eliché-ridden artist Jasper Johns: "One thing impoverishment of today's used as another, one thing made commercial imagination, of another". The eases of obsessed with Barbie-Dolllook-

Pieasso makinga bull's head of a bicycle saddle and handlebars Even where a wider range of and ensting a monkey front life is evoked by toys, the moulds of n toy motor car are well-known, but it is the kind of and stifling to imaginative thing that any imaginative child

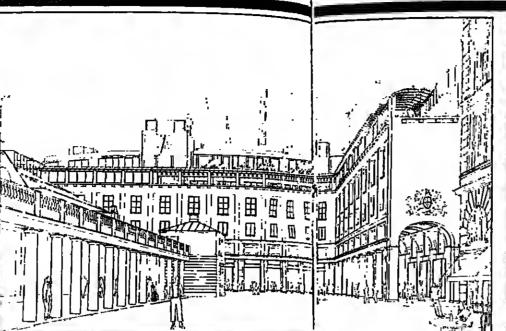
Of course, if a child does, as I did when young, turn a toy tractor upside down to become n galley or paddleboat, you may say that one social meaning is merely being changed to another. But no negntion enn be complete; what counts is the increment in what might be enlied the eoefficient of imaginntive sovereignty - nnd siteer joy - that comes with such a recycling. Beltind this might be dis-

cerned n reflection on thedebate user, never as ereator, he does about Modernism and its after-

# BUILDINGS OF THE YEAR

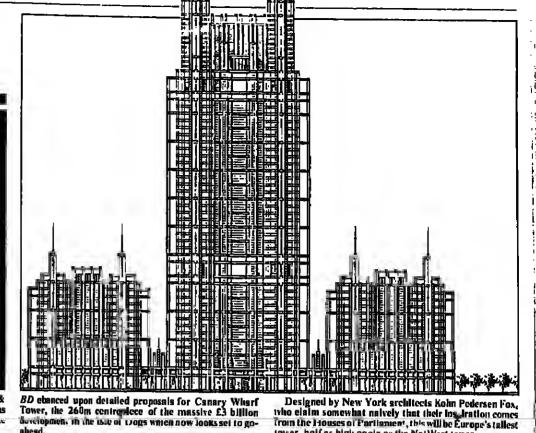
Jeremy Olvon's masterful proposula for the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden (right), a competition he won with Hullding Design Partnership, await plunning approval and fuoding. The scheme will update the opera house facilities and backstage areas, relation a colonardo la the porth reinstate a culonnade in the north-cast corner of the plazza, provide a new entrance and grond spiral stair

Richard Rogers & Partners' new adquarters for Lloyd's of London left| wos completed to a somewhat nixed reception, spart, that is, from a cophunile special number of the chitectural Review. The building le nonvilleless a tremendous achieve ment for boili nrchitects ond builder and represents a solitary symbol in the City of London of the potential of late 20th century prehitecture. Magnifi-cent models by Tetra of Lloyd's are featured in the "Foster, Rogers, Stirling" show of the Royal Academy



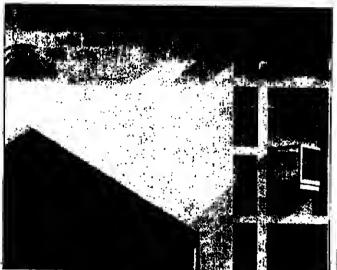


The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (above) was completed by Powell & Mora opposite Westminster Abbey. Elegani and ignificationally, there was cellular at that the later to space, and limited that the later to space.

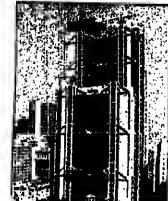


Peter Palumbo bounced back ofter the rejection of his Alles tower at Mansian House with twin proposals by James Stirling, Michael Wilford & Associateu, one of which retained the corner Moppio and Webb building (left) at the expense of a squat tower at the back of the site.

Stirling is currently adjusting the



The Clore Gallery for the Turner collection at the Tate (above), designed by James Stirling, Michael Wilford and Associates, was finally completed and the rich collection is currently being hung for Royal opening in the Spring. The Clore is the best new gnilory in London for many

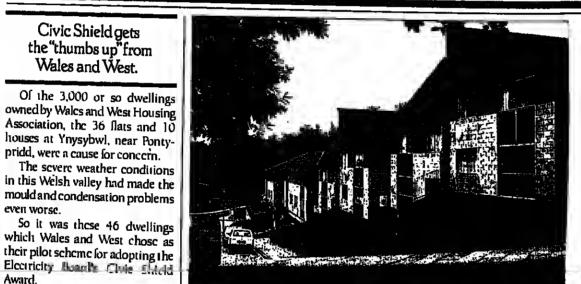


Foster Associated finished the upoctacular Hoogkong & Shonghai Bank (left), a magnificent and necessarily expensive combination of croffsmanship and technology. They unveiled propounts for the terminal of Stansted airport (below), a building type that seems to offer Foster the ideal vehicle for this architectural.

The ill-foled fifiC radio headquiriors in Langison Place by Fosier Associates was shown in public, long ofter the project's concellation in favour of a package deal on the White inodels rereoling the pains to which the practice hod gone locomo to tarmu with the difficult urban context.



Stirling is currently adjusting the scieme to account for overshadowing

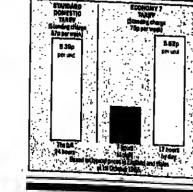


heating to Economy 7, they became | to operation - speaks for uself: by

even worse.

standards.

years and it will doubtless draw huge crowds to the Tate. The project is the first phase of Stirling's grand plon for the Now Museums to be built incrementary over the next decade, resulting in a complex of a scale that matches Stirling's international



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As is usual with this scheme, the

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housing manager into the bargain.

actually found themselves faced

with a wairing list for homes which

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Their pleasure at the cost-

effectiveness of the whole package

they were to heati

heaters and ennverting the water | - from installation right through

Tenants are able to get cheap heating because the stylish new slimline storage heaters take in heat overnight during the cheap the day.

As usual, the homes weren't the only things we converted! Economy 7 night time electricity | Economy 7 period, and the efficient is less than half price compared insulation enables it to be stored electricity from Economy 7. | with today's standard domestic | The heaters then give out heat gradually throughout the day to

1385 all Weles and West's 800

dwellings in the South Wales

Electricity Board area had been

upgraded in accordance with

DEN 3 guidelines and had received

In fact, they have now completed

the upgrading of all their electrically

the Civic Shield Award.

heated homes.

keep the homes comfortable and warm. Likewise, the Economy 7 hot water cylinder takes full advantage of the overnight cheap rate electricity by switching on automatically during the night. So in the morning, there's a whole tankful of hot water heated at the cheap rate to provide the bulk of tenants' household needs during

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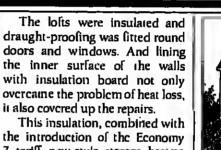
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Monmouth District Council are so pleased, they'll consider the Civic Shield solution on all their pre-fabricated homes in future. To date, they have implemented it in over 300 homes, pre-fabricated and tions-and there are more to come.

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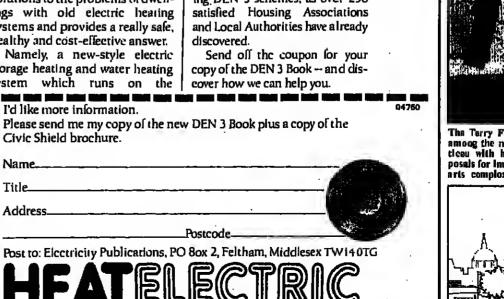
1978 by the Joint Working Party on | Economy 7 tariff, together with a Heating and Energy Conservation iallor-made package of insulation in Public Sector Housing, for

otherwise, at 32 different loca-

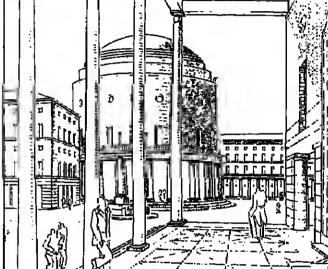
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Electricity Boards throughout remedial work for existing electri-England and Wales have con-This book sets out proven siderable experience in implementing DEN 3 schemes, as over 250 ings with old electric hearing satisfied Housing Associations and Local Authorities have already systems and provides a really sale, discovered.

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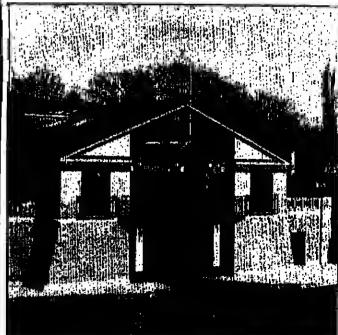
HISTORY: MONMOUTH



lower, half as high again as the Nai West tower.

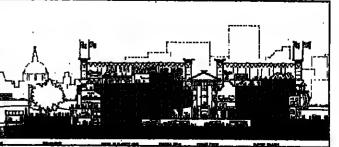
Leon Krior proposed universal Classicism for n quarter of Spital-fields. His mastarplan was commissionad by Stuart Lipton and Godfrey Bradman of Roselmugh-Stanhope as a rival proposal to an earlier scheme by Richard MacCormae and Fitzroy

Robinsoo. Krier's pisn lurather lower and, apari from reservations from those who see Classickim as a symbol of repression or regression, his scheme has been widely welcomed.



Tha Terry Farroll Partnership were among the most prominent of prse-tices with headftoe-eatching pro-posals for improving the Sooth Bank arts complox (below), for bridging

Loodon Woll in the City and for pulting offices over Charing Cross Station. The practice finished thenew headquarters for the Royal Regatts at Henloy (above).



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Until January 23 Peunpeii ond Herculanrum, wall paintings and mosaics from the hursest cities of Vesurius, exhibition of hand-coloured engravings. Veaug: Welgreb Architectural Gollery, 36 Store Street, London WCTE 78S. Details: 01-636-4895.

Venue: RICS headquarters, 12

Cirent Genrge Street, Lundon SWIP 3AD.

Detalk: Jane Dadswell, 01-222 7000 [ext 283].

Andrew Plakarton, director of Keppic Henderson erchitects, will

talk about his researches among

Venue: Charles Rennie Mackintosl Society, 870 Garscube Road,

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Confergram Associates, 80 Lamble

the practice's archives of the

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er of architects, G Kenneth

Burnn Hall, Huby, Sutton in

Details: (03473) 484.

The Milion Keynes experience, lecture by Keith Revill, building director of Milion Keynes

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### Exhibitions

Triday Interior siews, waterculours by Lunrence Walloce. Venue: RIBA, 66 Porthind Place, Details: 01-580 5533,

Micro in design. Venue: Design Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SWIY 4SU.

Until Saturdey Princes Square development, the proposed plans for its Jenne: Scottish Design Centre, 72 St Vincent's Street, Glasgow G2 5TN. Datable 041-274 6121.

Until January I Sonia Boyce, installations and drawings Venoe: Air Gallery bookshop, 6-8 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1. Details: 01-278 7751.

Until January I Design for growth, the 50 short-listed products in the Mobil Design Award for small firms competition. Venue: Oesign Centre, 28 Haymarket, London SWIY 4SU Detalls: Design Council, 01-839

Until January 4 Konaen wir vielleicht mit ware Mutter wiederhaben (what about having out mother back!), by Werner Buttner, Georg Herold and Albert Geben. Albert Ochlen. Venue: ICA, 12 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 5AH, entrance at the foot of the Duke of

York steps. Details: 01-930 0493. Until January 17 Villiam Walcot, his watercolours

January 28
Capability Brown, lecture by
Dorothy Stroud.
Yonue: Georgian Group, 37
Spitalfields, London E1 6DY.
Details: 01-377 1722. And ctchings.

Yenue: Building Centre, 26

Store Street, London WCIE 7BT.

Details: Shiels Anne De Barry 01-February 4 The Georgian town garden, lecture by Neil Burton. Venue: Georgian Group, 37 637 1022 or Timothy Lingard 01-Spitalfields, London El 6DY, Details: 01-377 1722.

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Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2JZ. Cost: £25. Detnils: Jill Reynolds, 01-928 8989.

January 20 SASPAC: Analysis of small area census data, one-day course on computer use. Venue: Oxford Polytechnic,

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January 15 Leudership training for chartered surveyors, a one-day course run by the junior organisation of the RICS.

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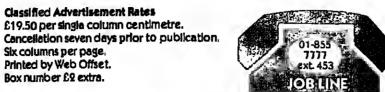
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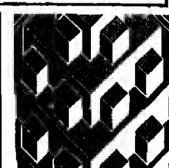
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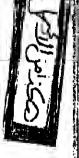
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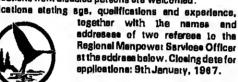
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## Hampton Court fire system modified

detection system have been made and other improvements to security and management arrangements are also in opera-

The improvements the DoE has implemented are in response to the recommendations made hy Sir John Ciarlick in his report. published in July, on last March's disastrous fire.

All the control panels to the fire systems have been modified so that switches commit he left in the "reset" position, lockable covers have been installed and a memory incility has been ineur-

The environment secretary Nicholas Ridley unnounced the chunges in a written reply to a Parlinmentary question from Toby Jessel MP for Twickenham in whose constituency the palace lies.

Ridley admitted that the complexity of the new system had caused problems because procedures were not made sufficiently clear.

"The lessons we have learned will be applied at Hampton Court and at other buildings for sible," said Ridley.

Better fire drills involving the fire brigade have taken place and arrangements have been made for more effective training with more provision of advice on the efficient operation of the fire system.

The Property Services Ag-ency is checking fire detection systems installed to other government buildings and considering whether systems should be installed where nooe exist at

Sir John Gorlick's report has bodies such as English Heritage and the National Trust.

Mobil Post Sea Limited, Brian Kolly, untitled.

# DoE urges checks on overcladding to modified MODIFICATIONS to Bampton Court's outomatic fire detection system have been block fire hazards

FIRE risks inherent in over-cladding systems for tower blocks have been identified in Where such cladding is alumi-time. The system incor-porate combustible elements. Where such cladding is alumia new BRE report. The DoE leas called for systems to be ehecked and recummended that fire barriers be fitted

where appropriate.
The BRE's research has revealed that with some overcladding systems there is un

nium, BRE's lab tests have

By Lee Mallett

shown that o fire within the cavity behind the cladding (the cuvity can either be designed or "fortuitous") can melt the alumincreased risk of fire spread — inium and burn through to the especially vertical spread where surface neveral storeys above. inium and burn through to the

## Thamesmead trust set to sell towers

FOUR lakeside residential tower blocks in Thamesmead moy be sold to help finance the purchase of the town from the London Residuary Body.

Thaniesmead Town, thecompony choired by Clive Thorn-ton, was originally scheduled to toke over from the LRB on January I, but February I or April I look more likely as the two sides have fulled to agree a

The LRB surveyor valued Thamesmead at £25 million but Thornton, with backing from the City, had only raised £10 million and it is belleved negotlations had reached the £18 million mark.

Suggested methods of raising the extra cash have involved selling off housing with the four 12-storey blocks as prime condi-

bedroom and 24 tyvo-bedroom Refurbished by a private deve- service charge rises.

some prices on the open market. The only problem with this

scheme is the existing tenants,

excluding a handful who have exercised their right to buy, who may wish to stay.
But legislation which came into effect only weeks ago ollows landlords such as local authorities and housing associations to move tenants out of a lower block into alternative accomsystems using thermoplastic

modation whether they choose to leave or not. The company may also be forced to sell further homes to help service the loans to buy the

Figures of around 100 homes n year have been mentioned together with a one third reduction in staff levels within five years. The company will be expected to break even within Encly block contains 24 one- five years and already there are plans to raise rents by 15 per cent flats, in a inkeside actting. in April and for substantial

lower block through windows.
However the BRE soys that

"fires of such severity are rare", and points out that "multistorey blocks have been clad for 10 years with systems which have a potential fire-spread within cavities" but no fires fenturing excessive vertical

sprend have been reported.

The DoE has advised that both existing and proposed overcladding systems should be examined to see if modifications

It recommends that for completed overclodding systems made of aluminium with a combustible insulant, fire barriers should be fitted if a suitable opportunity arises.

For proposed sheet over-cladding systems, local autho-

ritics should specify either non-combustible insulants or fire barriers every two storeys.

With other types of external cladding fire spread is likely to be small, according to the Do E. but it makes several recommendations where a nonsheeted system is proposed. For rendered metal lathing

insulant, authorities should specify sufficient metalfasieners to stabilise the cladding and fit

fire barriers every two storeys.

Where a thermosetting insulant is used sufficient metal fixings should be specified to stabilise the cladding.

Fire barriers which also support the cladding should be specified for every storey where glass fabric reinforced thin

nsulant are used. Copies of the report costing £25 are available from the BRE, Garaton, Watford WD2 7JR.

Could this be the be national ocuspaper building in England since the Financial Times' everent City headquarters, Brac House, was compli

In the 1950s? The "Plak "C keener to keep op standards than othe papers, it seems. It a detail of its neap centre, designed b Partners with Rob Design Portnership Bradford. The F7 just reached an agreement with the LDDC for a slice corner of the functi between the At3 12 eastern side of the Blackwall tunnel

A long "heroic will present itself travellers on the

northern approach

presses will be vis Grimshaw wood
FT award for indus orchitecture in 192 and was an assessor the oward in 1984 Robinson Design Portnership design the Bradford Telegraph & Argus

## Whitechapel Building setback

A LOCALLY developed plan for Whitechapel has received a setback with the neighbourhood committee of councillors voting five to three in favour of a rival

scheme by Pengap.
The plan has been co-ordinated by the Tower Hamlets Environment Trust and involves a 22,000sq m shopping centre, light industrial workshops and more than 300 homes. The final decision between Pengap, THET and a third

scheme by Charterhall will be made by a full meeting of Tower Hamiets council at the end of

## **Diary date**

renders with a thermoplastic THE receiving date for the Royal Scottish Academy summer exhibition next year will be March 23.

## optimism

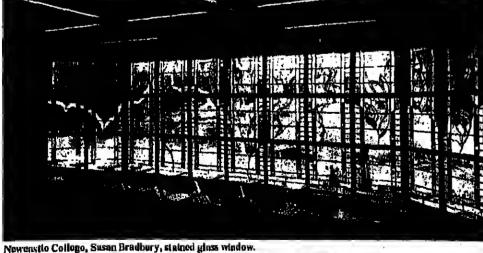
A GROWTH of 3 per cen construction industry out has been predicted in a report the Building & Civil Enginering Economic Developm Committee for 1987.

The report also predict further rise of 1 per center in 1987 but every

output in 1988 but expre concern that the South gains such a large share of

The best prospects appl be in office construction "unparalleled growth" of cent predicted in 1986 and and Sper cent in 1988.

More modest growth of per cent is forceast for private housing market year but public sector ho oulput is set to fall by 27 pc between 1985 and 1988 falling trend in industrial





Thosecond Art & Work Awards were won by Mobil North Sea, the BOC Group and Newcastle-upon-Tyne college of arts and technology. Richard Rogers presented the owards at the Royal Academy.

Mobil's prize, spoosored by developer Capital & Counties, was for the most outstonding contribution to ort in the working onvironment.

BOC won the oward for the art collection it has installed in its new headquurters at Windelsham. It includes works by Sol Le Witt and Gibbert & George. Space Planning Services sponsored the award.

Summ Bradbery's stalined gloss windows won the Newcastle collegalts award for a site-specific commission in the school of ort and design, sponsored by IBM.

Art for Offices sponsored o special award which went to the Forestry Commission for the sculptors' working environment it has act up in Grizedale.

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Grizedale Forest, Richard Harris, Querry Structure.